

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Allison Tulino on May 25, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 - (currently amended) A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising at least a male mold, a female mold, a transport chuck for feeding a decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold, and a clamper for pressing and fastening said sheet on a flat parting surface of said female mold, wherein: said transport chuck comprises two clamping devices by which both side edges of said decorative sheet can be clamped; and said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet when said decorative sheet is pressed and fastened, and at least one connecting member that extends from said pushing frame, said connecting member being connected to means of driving said pushing frame, wherein: said clamper is formed in such a shape that, said connecting member is spaced apart from said parting surface when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, such that there is established a space between said

connecting member ~~and~~ said parting surface, **said driving means and said pushing frame** in which said entire clamping devices pass therethrough.

5. (currently amended) A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising:

at least a male mold,

a female mold,

a transport chuck for feeding a decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold, and

a clamper for pressing and fastening said sheet on a flat parting surface of said female mold,

wherein:

said transport chuck comprises two clamping devices by which both side edges of said decorative sheet are clamped; and

said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet when said decorative sheet is pressed and fastened, and at least one connecting member that extends from said pushing frame, **said connecting member being connected to a connecting rod that drives said pushing frame**, and

wherein; said clamper is formed in such a shape that, said connecting member is spaced apart from said parting surface when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, such that a space ~~remains~~ **is established**

between said connecting member, ~~and~~ said parting surface, said connecting rod and said pushing frame in which said entire clamping devices pass therethrough.

6. (currently amended) A foil-decorating injection molding apparatus comprising:

a male mold,

a female mold, and

a clamper for pressing and fastening a decorative sheet on a flat parting surface of said female mold,

wherein:

said clamper comprises a pushing frame that abuts on said parting surface of said female mold via said decorative sheet, and at least one connecting member that extends from said pushing frame, said connecting member being connected to means of driving said pushing frame,

said clamper is formed in such a shape that, said connecting member is spaced apart from said parting surface when said pushing frame is in abutment with said parting surface of said female mold, such that there is established a space between said connecting member and said parting surface;

said apparatus further comprising means for feeding said decorative sheet between said male mold and said female mold prior to abutment of said pushing frame with said parting surface, while grasping both side edges of said decorative sheet and for releasing grasp of said decorative sheet while said clamper maintains the pressed state of said decorative sheet and said entire means for feeding said decorative

sheet returning back to an original position through the space between said connecting member of said clamper, said parting surface ~~and~~, said driving means and said pushing frame.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to claims 1-6 the prior art does not expressly teach wherein when a pushing frame of a clamper abuts on a parting surface of a female mold, there is a space that is established between the connecting member, parting surface of a female mold, drive means (connecting rod), and pushing frame and in this space a clamping device can pass through. The closest prior art of record (Atake) teaches a space formed within the female mold which allows a clamper to pass through, however when the female mold of Atake is held in abutment with the pushing frame of the clamper the clamping device cannot pass through as it is in a pressed state. **(See Atake in previous office action dated 12/06/2010)**. The prior art of record (Yamazaki) does teach that the clamper can be modified so that there is a space between clamper and the parting surface of the female mold however there is no disclosure that a clamping device can pass through said space when the clamper is in a closed state. **(See Yamazaki in previous office action dated 12/06/2010)**. It would not have been obvious to those having the ordinary skill in the art that the clamping devices in Atake and Yamazaki would pass through such a space formed by the clamper and the female mold as Atake needs the closing of

the mold to release the clasper while in a pressed state which would prevent and passing therethrough.

### ***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMJAD ABRAHAM whose telephone number is (571)270-7058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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